

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-26, 28-52, 54-64, and 66-95 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 23, 42, 51, 56, 62, 68, 74, 79 and 85 are independent.

In this Amendment, Claims 1, 4, 23, 28, 30, 51, 54, 55, 57 and 62 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 2, 3, 27, 53 and 65 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 2, 14-20, 23-26, 51, 52, 62-64, 66 and 67 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Ishikawa, Umeda, and Kuno, for the reasons discussed on pages 2 - 7 of the Office Action. The Examiner kindly indicated that Claims 3 to 13, 21, 22, 27 to 50, 53 to 61, 65 and 68 to 78 contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, while specifically traversing the art rejections, and preserving Applicant's right to file a continuation application to pursue the broad but patentable claims, Applicant has incorporated subject matter from the allowable dependent claims into the independent claims solely to secure immediate allowance thereof. In particular:

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject-matter of dependent claim 3 and intervening dependent claim 2.

Independent claim 23 has been amended to include the allowable subject-matter of dependent claim 27.

Independent claim 51 has been amended to include the allowable subject-matter of dependent claim 53.

Independent claim 62 has been amended to include the allowable subject-matter of dependent claim 65.

New independent claim 79 incorporates the subject-matter of independent claim 1, the allowable subject-matter of dependent claim 21 and intervening dependent claim 16.

New independent claim 85 incorporates the subject-matter of independent claim 23 and the allowable subject-matter of dependent claim 31.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3507. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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